

What's in a NAME?

The different terms for wetlands in India

With its rich geographical diversity, India is home to various types of wetlands. While formal Hindi translation brings us the term आर्द्रभूमि (aardrabhoomi : water-land), one of the oldest words for wetlands used in India could be the Sanskrit word अनूप (Anoop : unique, also refers to marsh/lagoon/near water/ wetland). But these words cannot encompass the linguistic diversity or the different wetland types found in the country. Languages reflect the way communities interact with nature, and thus the regional interpretations of 'wetland' also reflect the local conditions, understanding and the relationship of people to the wetlands around them. This word map attempts to showcase some of these regional terms that reflect the interlinked natural and cultural heritage of country.



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Note from compiler: We thank all the contributors who helped populate word bank through informal and formal conversations. The words and the representation are not intended to encompass the entirety of the rich linguistic and geographical diversity of India but is only a small step towards documenting the various ways in which wetlands are referred. The poster has been developed under the 'Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection' project, an Indo-German project between MoEF&CC and BMUV supported under the International Climate Initiative (IKI), implemented by GIZ. To contribute more words to the repository, send an email to shambhavi.krishna@giz.de

